

Nixon Favors More Public Logging

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A presidential panel yesterday recommended substantial increases in logging in the nation's public forest lands and the continued use of all available techniques, including clearcutting, to accomplish it.

President Nixon endorsed the report, but conservationists promptly attacked it as one that would doom "future generations to an even more serious timber shortage" than now exists.

The report, two years in the making under the chairmanship of former Interior Secretary Fred A. Seaton, said the U.S. Forest Service should review and revise its policies for determining how much timber may be cut.

"The annual harvest on lands available for commercial timber production on western national forests can be increased substantially," the report said. "Analyses based upon nationwide forest inventory data indicated possibi-

ties for increasing the old growth cutting rate in the range of 50 to 100 per cent."

The report said that in four national forest studies the annual harvest rate could be 39 per cent higher than the forest service presently plans. It added, however, that increased logging should be undertaken only if the government spends enough money to manage the cutting properly.

The study recommended the "retaining of all proven and efficient methods of timber harvest, including clearcutting, under appropriate conditions." Clearcutting is the practice of stripping whole sections of forests at a time rather than cutting selected trees.

The report defended clearcutting as a practice which accomplishes the same objective that farmers have — "to harvest the crop and establish a new one." It found the "popular conception that timber cutting causes severe damage to soil watersheds, streams, water quality, wildlife habitat and forest regeneration to be grossly unjustified."

Mr. Nixon issued a state-

ment instructing members of a timber task force in the Office of Management and Budget to put the recommendations into effect "as they consider practical." He added the report indicates that fears of environmentalists "would appear to be unfounded, misleading or exaggerated."

A spokesman for Friends of the Earth said, "there isn't enough growth to allow an increase without condemning future generations to an even more serious timber shortage." He added that reforestation is currently far behind schedule because the administration has impounded funds intended for that purpose.

Richard M. Lahn, a spokesman for the Sierra Club, said that the current figures the forest service has drawn up for cutting are already "far too high."

long before this action out-of-sight interest rates had depressed home sales. There was no lumber shortage for domestic uses. The sole use for this rip-off ~~the~~ of the public forests was for export, meaning to Nixon's friends and in the interest of his desperate fight to halt the unfavorable balance of payments that came to pass under his administration and from his policies. The more of the public's property he could sell at the cost of the public, the more those who helped make and keep him President would derive personal profit and the sales of the public's property abroad would hold down the ~~flight of capital from the country~~ statistics of the disaster of his policies.